



MODERN PROBLEMS ANCIENT SOLUTIONS

LESSONS FROM THE PSALMS & PROVERBS

LIFE GROUPS | LEADERS GUIDE

October 26-November 1, 2025 | Fall Week 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well hey there Life Group Leaders, welcome to this week's leadership guide for Gateway's Life Groups. We're in week #5 of our Fall 2025 season.

Week five already – while it feels like we just got going, we're now on the home stretch!

1. YOUR FIFTH MEETING:

- Leaders – keep up the amazing work you're all doing, in connecting all of your members to meaningful relationship within your group – between your members and the Lord, all while studying scripture and supporting each other through prayer.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

LEADER NOTE: These are the lowest risk questions and are great ways to get everyone in your group talking – from those who love sharing stories, to those who feel a little uncomfortable in this new space. Low risk questions have their way of breaking the ice and getting everyone a little more comfortable sharing. It also gives a chance for everyone to share in an easy, approachable way.

1. What was your first vehicle? Why that one?

LEADER NOTE: This question is one of those easy to answer ones, where you can invite all your members to share, and “*go around the room.*” While yes, not everyone will have owned their car, but will have interesting stories about how they got around as they gained that independence. Adjust the question as necessary!

2. What was the nicest compliment you've ever received?

LEADER NOTE: This question may take a little longer for your members to come up with an answer to share, so allow them the time they need, and as well, it might not work as well to “*go around the room*” but you might consider the “*popcorn responses*” – encouraging everyone to share as they're ready.

QUICK REVIEW

LEADER NOTE: These following two questions aim to have your group reflect upon Sunday's message. The first question will always be the same, and the second one is provided from our teaching pastor from the service.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

LEADER NOTE: Leaders, "*lead by example*" in your own use of these resources. Ahead of Sunday services, be sure to grab a guide in the lobby, fill it out during the message, scratch down extra thoughts and notes you might have, and bring it with you to your Life Group meetings.

2. This weekend, Pastor Kevin, talked about acknowledging God in our daily walk of faith. How can you worship God on Wednesday, like you do on Sunday?

LEADER NOTE: Kevin Lobert was our guest pastor this weekend, coming to us from Immanuel CRC in Langley. He serves there as the Youth Pastor and has done so for 17 years now. He also just sustained and passed his "*Minister of the Word*" examination, meaning that he'll be fully ordained as a Christian Reformed Church pastor very soon.

SCRIPTURE REVIEW

LEADER NOTE: Reading scripture together is one of the most important practices in our Life Groups, so never shirk away from reading the following passage, always making time to interact with the Word of God and its message for us. As leaders, you can read the passage yourselves, invite others to read the whole text, or go around the room from paragraph to paragraph. Over time, as you lead, you'll see what works best. Always say "*thank-you*" to those who read out loud – it's not everyone's favourite thing to do.

These questions that follow, will be the same throughout the semester. And if you're familiar with the "*Triad Questions*" from over the years, these are changed up a bit – simplified, and with slightly different emphases.

READ Psalm 29

1. How does this passage highlight God's presence in our world?
2. What does this passage say about our broken human condition?
3. How does this passage call me to make change in my life?

Another option with these questions, is to even more simply ask, once you've read the passage together, as in a general way, "*What strikes us about this passage?*"

DIGGING DEEPER

LEADERS NOTE: These discussion questions generally start simple and gradually become deeper and more complex. This progression follows natural discussion patterns, but as leaders, you know your group best. Use this guide flexibly; it is not necessary to cover every question. Focus on ensuring everyone is heard and has the opportunity to contribute and ask their questions.

1. READ Psalm 29:1-2. "*Ascribing*" here doesn't mean to give God glory, as all glory is already His, but it means to recognize and declare that all glory is His. How do we do that?

LEADER NOTE: To "*ascribe*" something means more to "*give credit where credit is due*" rather than the actual act of "*giving*" itself. As David ascribed glory and strength to the Lord, he was saying that both of

these aspects are already God's – recognizing that there is nothing that we as humans can do to make God more glorious, and there is nothing that we can do to increase His strength. However, we as humans fail repeatedly at attributing His glory and strength to Him and claim those aspects for ourselves. When we succeed in a task, we gain a promotion, or make it through a hard situation, so often we claim our own accomplishments in ourselves. And perhaps we do this not in a way of printing off our own certificates or overtly calling ourselves “*number 1*” – but we do this, by not attributing our success and accomplishments to the Lord and to His glory and strength.

When these great moments do occur in our lives, it would be good for us to respond with “*To God's Glory!*” or “*We bless God for that!*” or “*God granted that to happen,*” recognizing that all glory is His already, and gives Him all the credit that He is due. This also shows to the world around us that we're living for the Lord and are living in such a way that elevates His glory and minimizes our own.

2. READ Psalm 29:3-9. Considering this passage, what words would you use describe “*the voice of the Lord*”? If God's voice here was audible, what do you think it would sound like? What do we learn about God's character through this voice?

LEADER NOTE: The imagery throughout these verses picks up on God's authority, power, and might; all which emphasizes His sovereignty over His creation. It is He who is above the waters of chaos; it is He who is greater than the largest trees the Israelites can imagine; it is He who makes mountains and valley's dance; it is He who comes with might and displays of power.

Words that describe this voice may be ones like: God's voice is firm. God's voice is authoritative. God's voice does not quiver or waver. All which points to His character – of being “*The same yesterday, today, and forevermore*” (Hebrews 13:8). God is our sovereign, unchanging, steadfast God; the one who is greater than all other gods that have be set before us. Consider, the Israelite's neighbors, the Canaanites – who were a polytheistic people – they had gods for just about every facet of life and creation. As a case in point, Psalm 29, speaks out against one of their primary gods, Baal, who was the “*storm god, giver of rain and fertility.*” David's psalm makes the claim that YAHWEH is far greater and much more real than Baal, and therefore any of the other gods.

- **READ John 10:1-5.** How do you recognize God's “*voice*” in your life? What other cultural or inner voices attempt to drown out God's voice for you? What helps you quiet your heart so you can listen to the Lord?

LEADER NOTE: This will be a fascinating question for you to listen to the responses of your members, as their answers will be quite diverse, as God speaks to His people in all kinds of ways, and His people all have unique and special ways of listening to Him. Discussions here should take a tone of gratitude – that God still speaks today! Maybe as you can, leaders, make note of that! As this is truly an exciting element in the Christian faith, that we have the opportunity to commune with our God in the most special ways. Steve Klassen, of the Mark Centre (a spiritual retreat center here in Abbotsford), writes about five ways that God speaks today in his book, “*Your Ears Will Hear.*” God speaks:

1. through SCRIPTURE (in the Bible),
2. in His WORK around us (circumstance and coincidences in our lives),
3. through our HEARTS (our passions and joys),
4. through SILENCE and SOLITUDE (prayer and contemplation),
5. and through COMMUNITY (people).

While this is not an exhaustive list, it's a list that comprises many overarching themes or categories of where and how God speaks. Your members might reference more specific ways – and that's OK! They might talk about *“through music,” “through nature,” “through my child’s smile.”* And more.

What will be helpful in all this discussion is learning from each other how to listen to the Lord's voice. Help some of your members who might still be sorting out some of these techniques or spiritual practices to learn more, by asking good follow up questions of those who respond – *“where do you do that?” “Where did you learn about that?” “How often do you find yourself doing that?” “What is one special moment that you had while doing that?”*

ADDITIONAL QUESTION:

- **READ Genesis 1:1-3.** In the context of listening to God's voice, over the world's voice, what comfort can you draw from the first passages of the Bible?

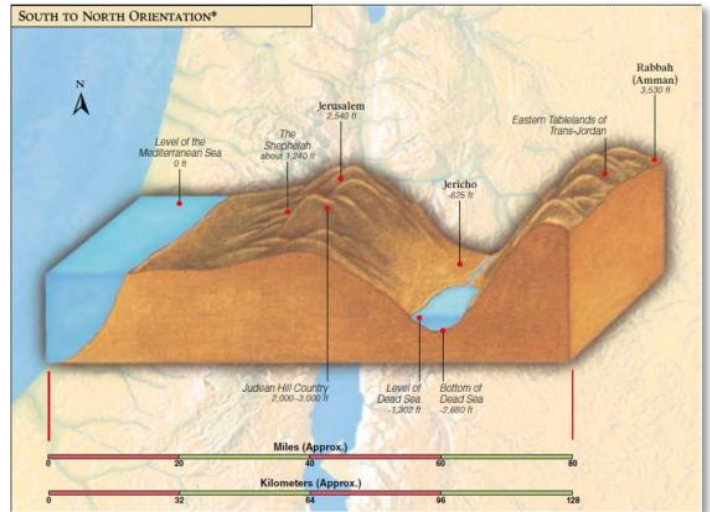
LEADER NOTE: There is a lot of things happening in this first passage of the Bible, from first noting that God was, before anything else was. That all of creation, before being formed was in some element of chaos and disorder. But here, you can see while talking about Psalm 29 the very same God, *“over the waters.”* The comfort that was expressed earlier here in the guide, that God in Psalm 29 is the same God who was at the beginning, is the same God who we have and serve today. This picture of Genesis 1 is likely what David's original audience would have seen and heard in their minds eye, as they heard the same words of God's presence over the waters, spoken in this Psalm. David is telling them that through all their toils and temptations while being surrounded by their enemies, that it is YAHWEH who will reign supreme over all things. Leaders, if you choose to go down this conversational road, bring up Heidelberg Catechism Q&A#27 & 28:

- 27. Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?**
- A. God's providence is His almighty and ever-present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures,
and so governs them that
leaf and blade,
rain and drought,
fruitful and barren years,
food and drink,
health and sickness,
riches and poverty,
indeed, all things,
come to us not by chance
but by His Fatherly hand.
- 28. Q. What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?**
- A. We can be patient in adversity,
thankful in prosperity,
and with a view to the future
we can have a firm confidence
in our faithful God and Father
that no creature shall separate us
from His love;

for all creatures are so completely in His hand
that without His will
they cannot so much as move.

3. READ Psalm 29:3 & 10. Water and storm imagery in scripture usually depict chaos and uncertainty. How do you think David's initial audience would have received these words? What comfort might they have experienced in them?

LEADER NOTE: It is not abundantly clear, whether or not David was a shepherd or king at the time of his writing Psalm 29, but the tones of the writing point to the time when he was king, which would put his writing of this Psalm while in Jerusalem. The city sits higher in the hills, between the Mediterranean Sea to the west, and the valley of the Dead Sea to the east. The weather patterns for this city, on the hills between these two bodies of water, would be quite unpredictable, and prone to winds and storms. It's also good to note that the Dead Sea to the east, is 430 meters below sea level, which would further complicate the weather patterns. This would all leave feelings of chaos and uncertainty in the hearts and lives of Jerusalem's residents. Which, David speaks to in this Psalm. While these words of verses 3 and 10, would have conjured up some vivid and realistic imagery for the hearers, they would have also been able to visualize their God who reigned above all this chaos.



- **READ Mark 4:35-41.** What are some of the connections between Jesus' action in this passage and the description of God in Psalm 29?

LEADER NOTE: Farther to the north was the "Sea of Galilee" which is where we find Jesus in a boat with His terrified disciples. What is intriguing about this scenario, is that Jesus has been teaching for the day on the shores of the sea, and so many people gathered, that He had to stand in a boat, and shout to the shore. But, as evening came, they needed to take a break, and go – but the best way to leave, was to cross the lake, and not exit through the throng of the masses of people. But, as is typical in warm climates, with lakes lying low in the hills, is a temperature exchange as the evening cools the water – which causes winds to pick up, generating storm like conditions on these lakes. The disciples, being relatively familiar with the land and these weather patterns, would have known about the potential for the wind to pick up, and yet, Jesus says, "*it's time to cross the lake.*" It's like He wanted to teach them something ...

And Jesus taught them, what they should already be aware of, that God is even sovereign over creation, and that in their fear, they were to recognize His power and ability, and not to just see the wind and waves – the storm of the moment. Essentially, David, is teaching his audience, the very same thing.

4. READ Psalm 29:10. David points to God's Sovereignty as he wraps up this Psalm. How does forgetting that God is "*enthroned as king forever*" affect the way we experience peace, humility, and hope?

LEADER NOTE: As we noted in the first question, we forget quickly to "ascribe" to God the glory and strength that are already His, which leaves us claiming that we can do life – navigating both its

complexities and joys – on our own. But doing such things on our own, like navigating complexities, we'll be left fatigued, misguided, broken, and beat up by the world. In our joy, we'll be left seeking more personal glory, we'll pursue more high moments in life, but when we get there, we will quickly realize that we're just left wanting more. The peace we long for, the humility we're commanded to model, and the hope we're too look for – will all be vastly unattainable, as we're stuck wallowing in our own misery, or seeking pleasure in all the wrong places.

- Read the following passages and finish the sentence:
- **READ Job 1:20-21.** God is sovereign over _____.
- **READ Acts 17:24-26.** God is sovereign over _____.
- **READ Ephesians 1:4-6.** God is sovereign over _____.
- **READ Colossians 1:15-17.** God is sovereign over _____.

LEADER NOTE: In this discussion, it's the goal to get ourselves recentered in God's sovereignty, and to recognize our place within it. Leaders, this is a bit of a different approach to our questions, but it's a great exercise to explore the themes of scripture. As you need to read and wrestle with each passage, in order to discover the truth about God that the authors are trying to convey.

- In Job, we're told that God is sovereign over life – that He is Lord over all the circumstances that we experience in life.
- In Acts, we're told that God is sovereign over times and places – that it is He who is Lord over human history.
- In Ephesians, we're told that God is sovereign over salvation – that it is He who invites us to be with Him.
- And then in Colossians, we're told that God is sovereign over every single element of creation and life – that it is He who carries and sustains all things – past, present, and future.

TAKING IT HOME

READ Romans 12:1-2, James 4:4, Revelation 3:20. What is one practice this week that you can start, that would help tune your ear to God's voice, rather than the world's? What do you need to do, in order to do develop that pattern?

LEADER NOTE: Think back to your discussion at question 2, when you talked about recognizing God's voice in your life. At that point, your conversation was perhaps more theoretical. Now is your chance to talk practically, asking not "*what should we do?*" but "*what are we going to do?*" Then encourage each other to those very ideas – and even consider starting your next discussion – next week – asking if anyone started new patterns, enlivened some old ones, or tried something new – when it came to listening to God's voice.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

LEADER NOTE: This following question is completely optional and is intended for the participants' personal reflection. But do feel free to explore using the question within your groups meeting.

READ Genesis 3:1-7, 2:16-17. The Genesis 3 text captures the moment that all humanity fell into sin, putting a humanly unrepairable distance between humanity and God. Take note of the words that the

Serpent attributes to God's voice, and how they're different than what Genesis 2 records. What do you notice to be the difference? Why is that significant? What then, was the serpent doing with Eve here?